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The choice of building materials depends a great deal upon geographic conditions and, to a limited extent, upon the wealth of the individual builder. The most primitive is the house build of mud. Only on the driest and most barren regions of the Great Plains can this type of house properly shelter its poor inhabitants. Plashed wands are used to strengthen the foundations of these mud houses as well as the adobe houses, made of unbaked but dried cubes of clay, which are very common throughout Hungary. The dirty work of mixing and drying [563] the adobe is left to the gypsies of the village. After completion of the house, the walls are whitewashed inside and out. Stone, brick or timber are used sparsely on the Dunántúl and the Palócság, but even there the outhouses are constructed of more simple mud or clay materials.

Roofing may be of a variety of materials, thatch and reed being the most common ones. Today this roofing is still to be found, although fire ordinances prohibit their use in new constructions. They are now yielding their place to shingles, laths or tiles.

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The layout of the house is of the so-called High German type: it is a "two-fireplace" or "room-kitchen" layout. The living room (tisztaház, fehérház, tisztaszoba, etc.) is generally centered around a furnace (kemence), which is used both for heating and for baking;

another source of heat (tűzhely, generally a stove) is placed in the kitchen--hence the name. The majority of peasant cottages have now a second living room (hátulsó ház, kisház, kamora). Pantries and porches may also be added. On the Great Plains, the only entrance to the dwelling is through the kitchen door; in Transdanubia, the living room may be reached through another door. 342 [354]

The flooring is very primitive. It is generally of tamped dirt, covered over with clay and then smoothened. Sometimes the clay is blended with durry, lute or loam for coloring purposes. Such mixtures may be applied on the walls of the rooms also, although whitewashing is the more common procedure.

Besides the dwelling house, the Magyars construct separate buildings to shelter their domesticated animals and to store crops or equipment. Some are also designed for certain kinds of farm work. 343

The fencing surrounding the courtyard is made of one of the above-mentioned primitive materials. Hedges, dry stalk, harrow, or simply branches or thorns are also used. In some towns on the Great Plains, thick mud or adobe walls are built on the street side, high enough to hide the farm buildings completely. 351

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342 City buildings are, of course, varied in style, structure and
369 material and bear the general aspect of any urban settlement.

In city homes, individual rooms serve different purposes: they are living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, etc. This differentiation is, however, completely absent in the peasant home, despite the ever-increasing number of rooms into which they may be divided.

Nowadays, when there is a second or even a third living room in most of the country houses, the main living room is actually used very little; it is preserved primarily for receiving guests of importance
352 or for feasting on certain family occasions. The pride of the main living room is the decorated bed (menyezeteságy, tornyosnyoszolya) which serves as a purely decorative item, being piled, in some cases to the ceiling, with eider-down quilts and pillows. Chairs are lined
354 up in front of this bed. In many homes, a furnace is built in a corner near the entrance to the room. It is a cumbrous convenience made of clay in different sizes and shapes, and whitewashed or inlaid with pottery. The most elaborate ones may be found displayed in the Trans-danubian homes. These come equipped with built-in chimney corner seats
352 (padka) long enough to sleep one person. In the corner opposite the furnace is a heavy table, with two benches along the walls. In the homes of well-to-do peasants, the table moves to the middle of the